

BLUE GRASS BLADE

WE AIM TO CUT DOWN ERROR AND ESTABLISH TRUTH.

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ROME BOOK

PRaised BY PRESS AND PEOPLE

Opinion Upon its Merits As a Contribution To American Freethought Literature and its Value For Real Missionary Effort in the Cause of Intellectual Freedom.

READ WHAT OTHERS SAY AND IF YOU HAVE NOT A COPY GET ONE.

The value of the Rome Book, by Dr. J. B. Wilson, to the cause of Freethought, is amply demonstrated by the many comments made upon it by the Freethought press of America and the numerous commendatory letters that are coming in from Freethought publications over the land. The Blade has urged from time to time the necessity of securing a wider distribution of this book as a missionary undertaking for it is well calculated to open the eyes of the orthodox wherever one can be found with courage enough to read it. The book ought to have another edition and then another for it is complete, unanswerable and will stand as an important part of American literature.

If there are any Freethinkers who have not read the book, or are in doubt concerning its merits, let them read what the press and the people have to say about it in the following comments:

From the Searchlight.
"A Trip to Rome," is the title of a book written by Dr. J. B. Wilson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and published in the Blue Grass Blade, of Lexington, Ky.

Dr. Wilson was one of the few Americans in attendance at the International Freethought Congress that convened in the City of Rome, Italy, September 21, 1904, and this book contains an account of that Congress and of the writer's travels elsewhere during that trip.

Books of travel are not always as original and striking as is this one. Dr. Wilson has succeeded in relating the story of what he saw and heard, and in conveying to the reader his impressions thereof, in a most charming manner. It is in no way an echo of some guide-book, as so many of such publications are.

Dr. Wilson seems to have looked through his own eyes at what he saw; likewise he listened with his own ears at what he heard, and then of it all he made the impressions thus created in his mind.

From Higher Science.

Dr. John B. Wilson, of Cincinnati, O., whose portrait is presented this month as Frontispiece, is one of the best known Atheists in America, and one who is probably doing as much, or more, to free humanity from the mental slavery of superstition and the physical slavery of capitalism than any other one person on this continent. I first remember him in the U. S. District Court at Cincinnati, fighting in defense of the late Editor C. C. Moore of the Blue Grass Blade, who had the habit of telling most truth about "our dear heavenly father" and "our blessed savior" to suit the religious bosses. As you remember, he was persecuted for a long time and sent to the Ohio State prison for two years, but was finally rescued by Dr. Wilson's untiring energy and ability as a liberal advocate.

Dr. Wilson was elected President of the American Secular Union in 1904 and later President of the National Liberal Party—now the American Freethought Association. During his term of office as President of the latter body he was sent as American delegate to represent us at the International Liberal Congress, held at Rome in September, 1904, and of which he has written a most interesting and instructive book, "A Trip to Rome," which I mentioned last month. Dr. Wilson is still a young man, full of force and energy and it is to be hoped that Freethinkers will see to it that his great ability will hereafter be kept busily employed in travel and publishing. To those who can not afford to buy his works, let me say you can

always find them in our Los Angeles Liberal Club Library.
The leaves are about the size of this magazine and there are 350 pages, every one of which is filled with good things. It is a book that no Freethinker should be without and it would be a good thing if every Christian in this country would read it. It has a fine half-tone of Dr. Wilson's portrait and also one of the monument of Giordano Bruno, the last great scientist the church ever dared to burn at the stake. Every reader of Higher Science should have this splendid book.

From the Humanitarian Review.
This is a book that should be of great interest to the general reader on account of its vivid and instructive narrative of a European trip by a wide-awake observer (and of special interest to all Rationalists) on account of its quite full report of the great World's Congress of Freethinkers at Rome in 1904. It also contains "How Pagan Rome Became Christian" and "Churches of Rome." The book contains a good portrait of the author, which adds much to its value to the reader's heart of admirers among the Liberals of America. Not having yet finished my reading of the book, I hope to be able to speak of it at greater length at some time in the near future. The author, in his preface, says:

"I have aimed to hold the mirror up to nature, giving the reader a glimpse of sea and sky, of sunshine and storm, of mountains and fields, of landscape and city, of agriculture and manufacture, of history and geography, of architecture and ruins, of government and church of poetry and art, of science and progress, of the moral and social conditions, and of all those objects most famous and commonly known to the American mind."

"This, of his travels and sketching on sea and land, but to the great Congress he devotes seventy pages of the book—to my mind the most valuable portion of it."

From the Liberal Review.
Dr. John B. Wilson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, well known as a prolific and versatile writer of pronounced brilliancy comes as new volume, "A Trip to Rome," which was the representative at the Rome convention in 1904 of the National Liberal Party, and has not only given expression to his experiences while acting as a delegate to that convention, but has also given his impressions of civic and moral conditions in different cities of Europe visited by him. Also his criticisms of Medieval art as expressed on canvas and in marble and architecture strike a resounding chord.

From Tomorrow.
One of the most valuable contributions to recent freethought literature is "A Trip to Rome," by Dr. J. B. Wilson, of Cincinnati, Ohio. James E. Hughes, Lexington, Ky., publisher.

The book contains 350 pages, is well bound, and gives a full account of Dr. Wilson's trip to the Holy City as President and American delegate to the first great International Free Thought Congress, which convened in Rome, September 21, 1904.

Dr. Wilson has spared no pains in his effort to take his friends with him on his wonderful trip, for besides his account of the great Liberal congress in Rome, the titles of the various chapters here given a splendid idea of what the reader may expect.

Chapter I is entitled the Ocean Voyage, and then follows Stratford upon Avon, London, Paris, Up to the Rhine, Switzerland, Italy, Venice, The Doges' Palace, Florence, Rome, the Great Liberal Congress, How Pagan Rome became Christian, Churches of Rome, Naples, Pompeii and Capri and Homeward Bound.

The author has taken unusual pains to bring all the features of his trip into vivid display for the benefit of his readers and no Freethinker should be without this book.

From the Ingersoll Beacon.
Dr. J. B. Wilson, of Cincinnati, has the thanks of the Ingersoll Beacon Co. for a copy of his book, "A Trip to Rome." We have only read a part of it as yet, but this is enough to constrain us to say that it is an exceptionally interesting and instructive volume. We bespeak a large circulation for it and hope to soon have it on sale at the Beacon office.
Thaddeus B. Wakeman, Reviews "A Trip to Rome."
This is the most real, vividly and evidently true book of European travel yet out. Those who begin it will find it a most interesting and useful book. Dr. Wilson has practically taken them

WITH ITS SWEET LAUGH

Even a Little Child Shall Lead Them Into the Path of Right Doing and Wholesome Moral Virtue To Useful Life.

WHAT WOMEN CAN DO WHEN THEY GET TOGETHER.

(BY HELEN H. FULLBRICK.)

Dear Brother and Sister Freethinkers and Socialists.
After a long struggle—some twenty-five years—with theological superstitions for morality, later with a brief but severe struggle with the political forces which employ these superstitions to entrap the people, I have discovered the secret of the whole chaotic mixture is a little word of three letters, a LIE. Not many lies, but one lie away back in the "beginnings." So without too much elaboration I want to tell you (as our Spiritualist medium friends say) that instead of trying to aid my groaning protest to the ever increasing woes of our property that means only the mighty "rise"—of one end of the social balance—that of itself insures the fall, I mean to try my hand at teaching a really and truly Sunday School taking up all three of the branches of the freedom movement: Freethought, Socialism and the moral morality between the sexes. I have but one pupil that I am assured of. It is a bright-eyed, live, earnest reasoning little girl of eight years, who claims ancestry on both sides the house from the old Massachusetts stock that came over on the Mayflower for the right to think.

We are several degrees freer now than then, but it seems there is music in the air today portending other revolutions, possibly more than I thought; and it seems to me, there is a possibility of besting a moral teaching of the woe ones, that including the principles of Socialism (for a building up and reaching) added to the tearing down of the old capitalist orthodox falsehood, might be broad and inclusive enough to put down the opposition to moral teachings on new lines and insure a certain degree of harmonious reasoning even in the hold of orthodox blindness. Time and experience will prove if I am right or not, and in the mean time, for greater strength, I am going to ask of you all, in cooperation to this extent: Will you please send me humorous poems showing forth the ridiculous of the orthodox capturing proposition that takes away the right to think (orthodox) in order to hold us up to the fleece our pockets? I am sure many of you will have clippings of a humorous nature that can be read and recited, that will bring home the truth better than long harangues, especially when given by the children, who have no political interests at stake.

A select few of the most advanced thinkers (women thinkers) in the city are all ready to co-operate and supply a few more papers.
We shall show that children go to public school today to learn in the arithmetic the scientific methods of stealing which they must always follow in if they wish to steal and not get caught; but that, until they may get caught, but that, until they may live in the co-operative commonwealth they must learn this scientific stealing and become apt in it or become a common beggar.

We shall call things by their names, look up roots of words and histories of words and try in every way to show the babies the truth by the natural evolutionary processes. Possibly some of you can parody old time songs and poems to suit the occasion and the ideal. If you can, we will esteem it a favor. We have for a part of our wall decoration and lesson—foundations, charts by T. B. Wakeman and Lester Ward which nicely show the truth about evolution of man and religion. We also have donated a large cool and commodious room for our exclusive use. Cartooning of the orthodox falsehoods as well as the capitalist robberies will be welcomed and gratefully received as decorations for wall and to use as illustrations to lessons.

It seems to an old teacher in the public schools, nothing short of cowardice and folly for the socialistic and freethought women to hesitate to step out boldly in Sunday School teaching of the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; but with a rare few exceptions I find all women cowards who like to be led by the nose by their

male "superiors." I do not believe Socialism will ever in the world be taught by a suppressed rebellion, till women will take the public teaching of children out of the hands of ministers and the church, and teach it from a "truthful basis." I see no hope for untrained men, till woman's reason, backed by courage comes to the rescue. Am I mistaken?
Cor. Amstel and Dayton avenue, Los Angeles, Cal.

THE VALUE OF ORGANIZATION

A Few Words of Encouragement From the National Organizer of the Church of Humanity.

(BY W. H. KERR.)

In the progress of knowledge through experience, observation and investigation, I have discovered by a few people that all Gods, Devils and Holy Ghosts are fabulous beings, heaven and hell myths and death the termination of conscious life.
Those people are now writing in the Church of Humanity to enable them to promulgate their discoveries and hand them down to their posterity, that may be saved from idolatry thereby.

On January 1, 1907, the church had 141 members. Many of the Blade readers are among the number. All of them should be.

The first 1,000 members will be the founders and charter members of this church. I shall then call a national delegate convention of the church to formally organize and incorporate it.
The balance of the Blade readers should seize this opportunity to unite with the society at once.

Please copy the following application for membership and answer all the questions correctly. Then forward it to be recorded in the Church Roll book.

Writing God to be a fabulous being, "The One God" is a certificate of graduation in the knowledge of God, and life membership in the Church of Humanity. Name, address, age, sex, occupation, nationality, language, previous church?
Add 25 cents for a year's subscription to the church paper, "The Truth About God." Address all to the International Organizer, W. H. Kerr, Grand Bend, Kansas.

ROMISH EDITOR ON WOMEN

Discusses the Dizzy Females of Ritual History and Pronounces Them As Wicked and Selfish. Just a Frank Statement.

COMMENT ON ARTICLE BY A BLADE CONTRIBUTOR.

(BY E. H. BURNHAM.)

One of our western newspapers says:

The reading public has always followed the venerable Judge Gough, editor of the Catholic Sentinel, as a chivalrous old chap, but the following from his paper will be apt to make many change their opinion:

Bible Women.

It is a notable fact that all the women mentioned in the Bible were wicked and selfish. Eve forced Adam into eating the forbidden fruit. Abraham's wife Sarah, first made her husband begot children, on her hand herself, but when Isaac was born, to herself, she insisted on sending Hagar and her child away into the wilderness, in hopes that they might die.

Rebecca the wife of Isaac entered into a vile conspiracy with her son Jacob, to deceive her old blind husband, and secure the blessing for her favorite, Jacob's wife Rachel used to let her husband by the night to her sister Leah, and when she was leaving her father's house, she stole the old man's Gods, and sold them for a camel furniture on which she sat and told a lie which put off the record. Moses' wife quarreled with him on the way to Egypt, and "called him a bloody husband so that he was obliged to send her back to her father. His sister, Miriam, the poetess, abused him until the Lord took pity on him and smote her with leprosy, on account of her bad tongue. Job's wife was a tarmagum of the first water.

BEWARE THE CLOVEN FOOT

revealed in Work of National Reform Association Which is Again Trying to Get out in Federal Constitution.

SOME OF THEIR CORRESPONDENCE PUBLISHED.

(CONTINUED.)

With this I send you a copy of a letter received by a neighbor of mine who wrote to the Rev. William F. Crafts for information as to the purpose of The National Reform Association.

The copy is the same words as the original. One sheet is the letter itself and the other is the heading to it. The circular part belongs in this open space at the top, but I could not confine myself to their boundaries and picked over limits just as I would any other theological restrictions. They go straight in in fine print. The fine hand of the said association is at work in this State now. The ministers of the State are circulating petitions to the legislature to submit an amendment to the State Constitution that it may be changed so that the Sunday laws may be made constitutional.

The whole clerical influence of the East is being centered on Calif. to make her have a Sunday law whether she wants it or not.
The Freethinkers of the United States who cannot even make an organization will sit up some J. B. and take notice, when they find themselves in straight jackets and the clericals in control of the government.

I send you also a circular being distributed by the Seventh Day Adventists.
You can use these as you see fit.

A FRIEND.

The letter is written on the stationery of the society which is disesteemed by gotten up and gives a long string of name of preachers who are officers of the society. In the center of the letter head is a circle descriptive of "Full Orbed Christianity" and showing the "Divided Hemisphere." On one side of the ring is printed the following: God, Heaven, theology, Love to God, Divine Faith, Catholicism, Deceitful Standards, Justification by Faith, The Minister's Sacred Desk, The Salvation of Individuals, The Saviorship of Jesus, the glory of God, Gifts to Charles Heart Worship, The Lord's Day, Prayerful Piety, Look Up, Save Man, We.

In juxtaposition as if implying the opposite the above and which is certainly far superior, we read, Man, Humanity, Secularity, Love to Man, Human Brotherhood, Political Standards, Justice to Employers, The Merchant's Sacred Desk, Regeneration of Society, The Kingdom of Christ, The Kingdom of God, Gifts to Reform, Divine Service, Anne Dutton, Philanthropy, Lift Up, Save Man, Vote, We.
As for the letter itself it will speak in more forceful arguments than any I could make and it should warn all Liberals and patriots to be fully aware of the cloven foot which is now displayed so openly. The letter reads: 206 Pennsylvania Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.

July 27, 1906.

Mr. Santa Monica, Calif.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Your favor of July 15th to Dr. Crafts is in hand and in his absence we will say that according to our understanding the main purpose of the National Reform Association is to get the name of God into the Constitution of the United States.

The Association also gives lively attention to the Sabbath and we believe that Dr. Wiley, Secretary of the Association, has recently published a valuable book giving the Sabbath laws of all States. All States have Sabbath laws with the exception of California, Idaho and the District of Columbia. We are doing all that we can to secure a proper law for this District, but have been balked for many years by the Seventh Day Adventists, 35,000 of whom do more petitioning than twenty-six millions of Christians. The Wadsworth bill passed the House this last session but it gives a mere fragment of a good Sunday law, allowing provision stores only. We have been circulating the Allen bill, copy of which we enclose.

For further information in regard to the National Reform Association we

would suggest that you write to Dr. McAllister, editor of the Christian Statesman, Altoona, Penna.
Yours for a better country and a better world here and now,
B. B. BARRETT, Gen'l Sec'y.

HOW IT LOOKS TO A FREETHINKER

American Press Toodles To the Church While Partially Ignoring Mass Meeting in Name of Freedom.

(BY A FRIEND.)

The following news item, clipped from the Boston Daily Post, of January 15, under appropriate headlines, contains intelligence that is very refreshing and I am sure it will be read with deep interest by the patrons of the Blue Grass Blade:

"About 500 Italians of the North had met last evening in Union Hall, 144 North street, and discussed at length the recent controversy between the government and church in France. Addresses were made by C. Cirino, G. Mazzarella, B. Gentile and F. Venanzio, C. F. Clampa presided.

The following resolution was translated into French and will be handed to the French minister for transmission to the French minister of the interior: "Whereas, the French republic with the church and state separation law has affirmed the right of free thought and church in France, and the French minister of the interior has humiliated from superstition and prejudice.

"Whereas, by said law an obstacle has been removed from the path of progress which will replace dogmas with science;

"Be it resolved, that we, Italians of Boston in mass meeting assembled approve of the action of France in separating the church from the state and hope that Italy will soon follow her example."

At the meeting of the Italian branch of the Pope held a mass meeting in Faneuil Hall and the "Cradle of Liberty" was made to rock with bitter denunciation of the French government for its action against the Catholics. Among the speakers was a Harvard professor, with a good American name, who, when he came on the stage, kissed the ring on the finger of Archbishop Smedley, or other. The following day all the Boston dailies have extended reports of the meeting, larger headlines made from their paper type.

Now, however, when a bunch of huchas get together and have a series of resolutions that have the genuine ring of freedom and justice in them, their action is disposed of in the fewest possible words.

To read the report of the Faneuil Hall meeting one would be led to suppose the American Catholics were a unit in support of the policy of the Pope, but a perusal of the article in the current number of the N. A. Review, a Catholic priest, "show us that such is not the case and that the Catholic church is wide and deep and highly dangerous to the continued supremacy of the 'Prisoner in the Vatican.'" It is very evident the leaders of Freethought is working here as well as in all the other religious organizations and that eventually reason will be the guiding star of all the people on two earth.

ORGANIZATION.

Many readers of the Blade are FOUNDERS and CHARTER MEMBERS of the CHURCH OF HUMANITY. All should be. For particulars ask the INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZER, W. H. KERR, Grand Bend, Kansas. Enclose 25 cents for the church paper, "The Truth About God."

It is Our Fault.

Recor. O—I write you these few lines in regard to my paper. For the last six months my paper comes from a week to ten days late, and my last one came two weeks late. I received the issue of December fifteen January 12th, which puts me two copies short. I don't want to complain, but I would like you would mail my paper as soon as possible so that it will make different connections and not be carried all around. I am always anxious for my paper. I am sending you a few clippings by same mail. You may take my name for one of the Moore books when completed—JOHN McFARLAND.

THE BLUE GRASS BLADE

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JAMES E. HUGHES, Editor and Publisher

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ALL ADVERTISEMENTS of whatever character, accepted will be published at the rate of \$1.00 per inch per month, unless by special contract, when other and better rates will be quoted upon application. The publishers have the right to reject any and all advertisements offered.

GENERAL BUSINESS RULES.

ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Blade will be discontinued at the expiration of the term for which the subscription has been paid up in advance. The address slip on the paper will show subscribers the date of expiration of subscription. Back numbers, or numbers omitted will be sent, if asked for, upon renewal in case of discontinuance.

MAKE ALL money orders, drafts, checks, etc., payable to JAMES E. HUGHES, Lexington, Ky., as this will facilitate collection.

SHOULD ANY SUBSCRIBER change his or her address, advise this office, giving both old and new, and the Blade will be sent to the new address, as desired.

THE OFFICE of publication of the Blade is at 55 West Short Street, Lexington, Kentucky, to which all Free-thinkers will be given a hearty welcome.

THE BLADE is entered at the Postoffice at Lexington, Kentucky, as second class mailing matter.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BLUE GRASS BLADE, P. O. Box 303, Lexington, Ky.

On with the fight.

Universal Mental Liberty.

Do you realise what that means?

Give the subject a thorough analysis.

Human reason is the flaming torch of progress.

All creeds must be tried and tested by conduct.

The world demands that we try to be real men and women.

There is nothing but a vicious degradation in Christian charity.

Never abridge the equal right or privilege of any other person.

Let your works shine so that the world may know what is in you.

So shape your life that others may be better because you have lived.

It is the duty of every man to be larger and better than his money.

Free thought is a question of positive good and human usefulness to all.

The Christian religion is left to become a monument to envy and spite.

America cannot continue as a republic and rise to the level of greatness unless orthodoxy and pauperism be eradicated.

Some New York women announce that they will attempt the "silence cure." If kept up it is warranted to kill quickly and easily.

It will long be one of our national mysteries why bandits should insist upon holding up Pullman cars instead of going after the porters.

An Illinois man committed forgery that he might maintain his "social position." Now he is able to live up to all social demands without incurring additional expense.

The Swiss who claims to have sampled 1,783 kinds of sausage, must have had more than one sitting, held a long, continuous session, or else the beer was plentiful and unusually good.

Many are kept in poverty and want, suffering and shame, without hope or prospect of improvement, simply because they do not understand to appreciate the difference between "I am willing" and "I will."

The people can again dream of peace. Roosevelt is not going to take holy orders, the Japs are not going to capture San Francisco and the Pope of Rome has launched another encyclical at the French Separation law.

Victory does not rest on every banner that goes into mighty battle. Life is a continuous battle. Many are crushed in the fight. Few meet with great triumphs. Free thought is fighting a gallant fight, but whether it shall win or not depends upon the character and ability of the men who stand behind its guns.

What have you done during the past year? Cast up your balances. Are they on the debit or credit side? Have you exerted your talents to the utmost and measured your ability to the full limit of energy for the betterment of the race? If not, why not? You can do better. See that the Blade gets

into more homes this year and let it carry the gospel of freedom and happiness to others.

The very essentials of the Christian religion depend absolutely upon the inerrancy of the scriptures. Revelation and Miracle are both necessary to support them. Lacking intrinsic truth so-called evidences are adduced in behalf of the faith which only create wider and greater doubt against which these evidences have to contend. Free thought is the natural recoil from one extreme to the other and it is the finality of philosophical argument and deduction.

Christian institutions and the slaves to superstitions creeds are being called upon to weep and pray with suffering priests in infidel France. Time was when the people suffered at the hands of those very same priests, but the latter never wept or prayed. Somehow their tear-glans lacked a hair-trigger attachment and their sob machine wouldn't work. They never dreamed of that hereafter which has now come upon them with such avenging force. Weeping and praying will avail them not.

THE CAUTIOUS AND STATISTICAL CHRIST.

There are a large number of people who express wonder and astonishment why there should exist such a wide-spread prejudice against organized charity and decry it with vigorous earnestness. Was it not John Boyle O'Reilly who once wrote:

"Organized charity, scrimped and iced,
In the name of a cautious, statistical Christ."

and could not this sentiment have found its origin in the very conditions existing among the various associations for the disbursement of charity with which the author came in contact?

One may find both truth and poetry in the rhyme. There is never a society, under whatever name, which has for its principal business the dispensation of charity upon an organized plan, but what its workings are conducted upon a sordid business basis. They must needs prepare estimates in advance of the year's work, figures and statistics are compiled in order to show the confiding and unsuspecting public what must be done in the name of O'Reilly's "cautious" Christ that reputation may be maintained and the industry protected from criticism. Every application for alms made to these organized societies must go through unnecessary circumspection and red tape that the term "scrimped and iced" is exceedingly and not too excessively appropriate. Its officers, while probably engaged in a worthy cause to relieve as much of human distress and suffering as possible, do not seem to realize that they are merely giving relief and cannot possibly effect a cure. If humanity is sick a cure is needed. Organized charity is an altogether improper treatment. Did justice prevail charity could be dispensed with for ever. Did justice triumph charity would become unnecessary.

Accepting this view of the situation we are in a better position to study the aggravating cause that has come to light in the report made by the officers, for the year just closed, of the New York Association for Improving the Conditions of the Poor. It shows an army of high-priced, high-salaried agents and officers who make a fat living in the very name of charity, showing that the money so freely given that the poor of New York might be relieved of suffering, is diverted from the channels for which it is given and finds its way into other pockets and devoted to other purposes. That report should be the death of the association, and yet, how many of the donors will ever examine the account and ascertain just what is being done with the money they give? The report shows that during 1906 the association distributed, in charity, the sum of \$93,500 and that its expenses amounted to \$111,000. In other words it cost the association more to dispense charity than the amount of charity it actually dispensed. It shows that \$204,500 was collected by the association last year and that only \$93,500 of that sum actually went to charity while a much larger sum was distributed among the officers and agents. It cost \$111,000 to distribute \$93,500.

To the Blade, in face of such a report, it seems that the association is underwriting the conscience of those who contribute to its funds. They can refer applicants to the secretary, but that official, after first drawing his own salary, can unwind red tape and then do as he pleases about giving help. Professional philanthropists are continually prating about indiscriminate alms giving and it seems as if they are to be allowed to continue prating as they are to be allowed to continue prating. The Blade does not understand why it should cost such an enormous sum of money to distribute \$93,500. Had the association disbursed millions instead of thousands it could have been done for much less money. To say that it cost \$111,000 to distribute a less sum among the unfortunate poor looks like a reckless extravagance which ought to be checked.

Of course, the money is collected in the name of Christ but it is dishonored in the name of the agent. Religion, that is the Christian religion, claims the credit for giving away \$93,500 and it must face the accusing charge of having deliberately squandered \$111,000 of other people's money. Well, indeed, did O'Reilly write,

"Organized charity, scrimped and iced,
In the name of a cautious, statistical Christ."

CHRISTIANITY AND PROGRESS.

No greater fallacy has ever been laid before the thinking world, no false claim ever asserted with such brazen effrontery, no such deliberate, premeditated attempt to defraud and convert to their own use and benefit, than that made by the Christian world to the effect that the religion of Christ is the one, dominating factor in all our progress, our civilization.

Did the Christian people ever pause long enough

from their prayers to give the subject even the slightest thought they would soon convince themselves of the falsity and absurdity of such a claim. As a matter of fact Christianity itself, with its man-gods and ghosts, its revelations and inspirations, is but an element in progress, a result of progress, an incident in progress, as marking the improvement in men's minds from the days of semi-barbarism to that period where a little thought began to operate. Savage man did not undertake to explain the phenomena of the universe, that which he did not understand. Semi-savage man tried to account for it all and then he placed a god behind every element in Nature. He did not know what was meant by god but it constituted the only answer of which he was capable. The ever-rolling billows of old ocean, the lightning's flash and the thunders of heaven, the beauty of landscape, the mountain peaks, the passion of love, war, conquest, music and song, all found expression through some hidden force which he designated as god, and with the inception of Christianity they blended all gods into one and afterwards purposed this one into three to suit ecclesiastical purposes. Man was still in his ignorance when Christianity entered the field, otherwise it would never have been taught.

It is no mere guess to say that man, and man alone, has wrought every change, every step in improvement, alone and unaided by any god or gods. Necessity was, with him, the mother of every invention and from the small beginnings of the dark and ignorant past his upward march can be clearly and definitely traced, marked in clear profile, step by step into the present. Just as humanity must be judged by its results so must all religions of whatever name be judged by what it has produced and what it is capable of producing. The only new idea brought into the world as a direct result of Christian teaching is that of a hell of fire for no other religion has had such an atrocious place of torment. Its crucified Christ is but a copy, a mere imitation. Its life after death and hope of immortality was taken from pre-existing cults. Its spiritualism is clearly and essentially Aesthetic and was taught long before it saw the light of day. There is nothing, but hell, that is original in the entire scheme of Christianity, and it is welcome to keep that for no other cult is desirous of claiming credit for it.

By the aid of our imagination let us penetrate the past. Here we find a man, a savage. He is dead, and he has nothing and hardly knew enough to clothe himself. In fact he was naked and he was not ashamed. He was compelled to fight against all nature for subsistence and existence. He had no weapons, no tools, no implements of domestic use. At last he invented a bow and arrow and weapons of iron and stone. These put him upon more than equal terms with bird and beast. They gave him an increased power and authority over all animate and inanimate nature. He could bring down the eagle from its lofty flight and lay it in death agony at his feet. The lion was at his mercy and he became king over the wilderness he called home. The invention of tools and weapons made him monarch of all he saw but he was still a prey to the elements and he held in awe all he saw but could not understand. This was the first great invention made by man and god had no hand in the step forward. Indeed, god was not thought of.

The next, and perhaps the greatest invention of the age, was when man discovered fire, and the use to which it could be put. From the lion he soon learned the art of cooking his food and in this art man took the first great step which marked a forward movement, clearly separating him from the beast. With one mighty stride man had undertaken civilization's long and tiresome march. It was the first line of clear demarcation for he no longer ate his food raw. He could better protect himself against the rigors of winter and civilization took another great forward move.

Even with this man was still a savage and a savage he remained until he learned and acquired the art of agriculture, inducing the earth to give him a harvest of useful and needful products. He had not vegetable food save the natural roots of trees, leaves and fruits that grew wild about him. Agriculture soon induced an exchange of commodities and man began to learn the art of trade from which has come all our modern commerce with its intricacy and ramification of detail. The Christian religion had no part whatever in any of these undertakings and its very existence is but an incident in the history of the race, important, perhaps, because of its cruelties and butcheries.

Thus, the invention of the bow and arrow, the invention of fire, and the development of agriculture, are at the base of all civilizing growth and from these humble beginnings has come our modern, mammoth-serving age. If Christianity has done ought to civilization at all its has been to subvert it from its legitimate channels, as a benefactor to all men, and to appropriate to its own use and benefit, by deliberate theft, whatever benefits have resulted therefrom. Christianity has been the cuckoo of all progress, stealing what another has made and claiming all its own.

CONVERTED AT NINETY-FIVE.

The caption of this article is being employed by the religious press as an attractive headline for the purpose of informing the believers in the faith concerning the wonderful prowess of Rev. Chas. H. Elder, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, at Trenton, N. J., in winning to Christ from a long life in infidelity, one Adam Swope, of that city, at the advanced age of ninety-five years. Of course, such an article is given prominence in the Christian Herald, published at New York, and as the big game has squawked thinly, all other foolish game are expected to keep it up.

The story as told of Mr. Swope's conversion is not even interesting. It has the same old earmarks of all similar stories. It may be true and it may be false, the chances being fairly in favor of

the latter. It contains nothing new and informs a wondering world that the preacher, aforesaid, did it all through prayer. The featured article which it given with a picture of the aged convert, is suggestive that even in this day, the professors of Christianity are glad of an opportunity to clutch at any old game which is calculated to bring a few more dollars into the treasury. We have hundreds of similar stories and they all look alike. There is a close family resemblance between them, suggestive of a very close relationship, their sire being Satan and their dam Ambition.

But is it strange that a man, after reaching the age of ninety-five years, besieged by wife and children, augmented by praying professors of religion, should yield at the last moment? Is it strange that the brain being wearied and fatigued, worn out and incapable, addled to which are the ravages of sickness and disease, should induce the lips to utter a faint response to Christian prayers, especially when those prayers are given long enough for him to hear by those whom he held most dear and sacred in life? The very article in question deals a blow at its own sincerity for it ineffectually admits that "shortly after his conversion Mr. Swope was suddenly taken sick and died." If the truth could be known, and that seems impossible under the circumstances, Mr. Swope was "sick" when his conversion took place, and possibly might have "died" when the announcement was made that he had been converted in order to pacify the religious hopes and aspirations of the preacher and the converted man's relatives.

The argument of infidel conversion, however, even when taken at its best, is a poor one for the cause of Christ. In Mr. Swope's case it seems that they could not convert him while he was in possession of all his mental faculties, capable of reasoning and thinking, while he was in his health and prime, but they must take advantage of him when the grave had opened its portals to receive him, old age weakened his intellect and he would become a child again. The Christian world seems to forget that every Freethinker today, and in the past, is really a convert from Christianity and that their conversion was the result of an intellectual effort and not from a weakened mentality. All such arguments really belong to pathology and have no place in the realm of religious or non-religious thought.

In any event, The Blade did not know Mr. Swope. We never heard of him before. If he had been a "railer at creed" he was not very prominent in that line. So far as we know he was not a subscriber to any Free thought publication. He might be on other subscription lists, but he is not on that of The Blade. He might have been an infidel and he might not have been. But the church is welcome to all it can get out of the incident as providing that, after all, the Christian religion is fit only for children and mental cripples.

FRANCE AND THE POPE.

Premier Clemenceau of the French Republic has declared that if the Vatican would waste war with France the Vatican can have it, but the world will understand.

The Vatican, through its pope, has issued another encyclical to the French bishops urging them to resist to the utmost the Separation law and refuse to conform to its requirements.

On its face this looks like war. It may not be, but it might. Save for the disaster it may bring to the French people, every Freethinker could afford to say "Sic em" for in the end we know it would be the total elimination of church influence in France. War between the clergy and the French people would mean harm to the clergy for the people, when fully aroused, would exterminate the clergy, banish them altogether. The effect of such a struggle upon other Christian nations would be worse for the church for it would be as a flame, starting gently at first, but fanned by passion into a burning fire in which the church would be totally consumed. Italy and Spain would soon follow suit and the Pope would be without a country and a home.

The latest card from the Pope cannot exert any influence for good. It will have the effect of rousing the government of France to even a greater determination, proving to the leaders that their course was right, and with the clergy encouraged by the Vatican to resist, the strife could only result in disaster. Of course Mr. Pope may try to bring other nations into the maelstrom, but other nations will fight shy of Mr. Pope and he must be made to take his medicine even as his predecessors administered medicine of their manufacture to unwilling subjects. The Blade is pleased that the Pope has seen fit to write his latest address. It demonstrates the fanatical frenzy of the church. It makes prominent its weakness and chagrin. To lose a foothold in France means disruption.

And why should not the clergy evacuate when they are not wanted and undesired? To be Christ-like they should depart from France and shake the dust from their feet. Priestlike, they desire to force by conflict their presence upon an unwilling people. The Blade hopes there will not be war. Armed resistance can do no good. The Pope has been ill-advised to say the least, or he has acted foolishly. The Vatican did not owe France, although it might have believed that it did. If it entertained such an opinion it has been disabused of that notion now. The Pope is certainly bringing religion into politics with a vengeance and this, in itself, means much good. To be in politics secretly is bad for the people for then they become the victims of religious intrigue. To be in politics openly is better for then the people know and they can think and act accordingly. By encouraging political discussion a greater and keener intellect is brought to bear upon the political business of the country, it increases the energy of the nation and induces a quickened political activity.

With the French people the old theological spirit has flickered out. The influence of the clergy has

away, Great Bend, Kan., for blank ap
about the college, and send 25 cent
OUTH ABOUT GOI." Do it now.

ROME BOOK

(Continued From Page One)

through Europe without the trouble and expense of going.

Is he not about the first real American who has crossed the pond and showed us what he really saw, and what things are over there.

Mark Twain did pretty well, but he was too funny to be vivid. This book gives us the truth of a photo, with the wit and humor of a cartoon.

Most people go to Europe out of love for its traditions. Dr. Wilson was sent to report on those conditions and the best of a world they have made; and he has done it as no one other, ever did. As President Roosevelt would say, "Nuff said." Read that book. Letter From M. Ezekiel, the Noted Sculptor.

Rome, December 3, 1906.

My Dear Doctor Wilson:
Your fine book, "A Trip to Rome," has given me very great pleasure by its frank, open and acute observations of Roman conditions of today.

Ennio Tullio, Podere and De Basio are all very much interested in your book and each will review it. They send you many congratulations and good wishes in which I join most heartily. Yours sincerely,
M. EZEKIEL.

A Fitting Monument.

MaBenton, Ga.

Dr. J. B. Wilson:
"A Trip to Rome" is a grand and fitting monument to your analysis of life as a prose and verse writer, and to your humanitarian interests in the wrongs of humanity.

The historical record of the first International Prethought Congress is of equal importance and the book as a whole, deserves to rank high among the Liberal classics.

WILLIAM M. MARTIN.

From L. F. Griswold.

Meriden, Conn.
Dr. J. B. Wilson, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Dear Sir:—Your letter of the 9th to my father received and in answer would say that he was greatly pleased to hear from you. He received a letter from Mrs. J. K. Henry the same day and I don't believe you have any medicine in your chest that could have done him as much good. He was just radiant, and as you know he is now 82 years old and a life from old friends as you and Mrs. Henry are now more good than all the medicine on earth.

I suggested to my father if you could get out this work and make profit enough so that you might make profit enough so that you might make the trip to the Holy Land and touch upon those people and their customs with that caustic pen of yours, what a work it would be.

Mr. Moore in "Dog Fennel" was very amusing, but we would like to see your description of that "Promised Land" in print.

Speaking of your book, "A Trip to Rome," we have enjoyed it very much. I would get to reading it evenings long after my bed time and my wife would holler at me to come to bed and unwillingly I would have to break off, then she got interested and I finally had to holler at her to cut it out. CAL. THREE—BLADE.

and come to bed, to you see your efforts are appreciated down in old puritanical Connecticut, only we want more.

My father's health is very good considering his age and any time hereafter is feeling blue I am going to ask you to prescribe for him by just sending him a kindy line, and in conclusion would say that anything in our power that we can do to assist you in your work of getting out the new edition, we stand ready to our limit.

Yours truly,
L. F. GRISWOLD.

Meriden, Conn.

ROMISH EDITOR

(Continued From Page One)

Instead of consoling him in his afflictions, she snarled at him and made him curse God and die. Saul tells his son Jonathan that he is the son of base, vile woman, and Sampson's mistress berated him to the Pillars. David's wife, the daughter of Saul, calls him a silly fool for dancing before the ark naked, in the presence of the women of Jerusalem. Solomon's wives made a pagan idol of him in his old age. Jeshiah, the wife of King Ahab, used cosmetics and was perhaps one of the first painted women, she was besides a murderer, having caused the murder of Nathan so her husband might get his vineyard. Judith went as a prostitute to the tent of Holofernes whose head she cut off when he was drunk and asleep. Lastly Miriam, the wife of King Herod, made her daughter ask the king for the head of John the Baptist, which was given to her in a dish.

I might also mention the case of Lot's wife where curiosity was her undoing, also Lot's wife whose conduct was to say the least slightly immodest. Then there was Peliphar's wife who tried to "make a date" with Joseph and Mary Magdalene, who, if

reports be true, was formed of seven devils not to say anything of that other Mary, who told the remarkable story of an over-shoulder the story of the Holy Ghost and made it (the story I mean) stick for 1900 years.

I wish to ask in all seriousness, is the Bible the proper kind of literature for a parent to put in the hands of a growing daughter? Can you conscientiously do so and say, my child search the scriptures, model your life and actions after the characters you find there? I read with interest the article headed "Angels Fear to Tread" in the issue of December 23 and would like to know what the writer means. Taking the Bible as a whole, which I suppose he does, as he says he is a Christian who one of the questions has been announced to my mind put one if it were not for responding too far on your valuable space. I would like to take up and analyze his answers in detail sufficient. It however to say that his work is an contradictory as the book from which he quotes.

PREACHER

JUMPS THE TRACK

Declares the Bible is inaccurate and Teaches Every Conceivable Doctrine and is Full of Vice and Wickedness.

ACCOUNT OF CREATION IS UNSCIENTIFIC.

(News Clipping.)

Under a Chicago date line the daily papers have given the following interesting account of the publication of a new book on religious topics. CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—Rev. Dr. Wm. C. Selleck, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Providence, R. I., has just written a book, "The New Appreciation of the Bible" in which he tears down many of the ancient of the orthodox Christians, lauds the higher criticism, and presents a new view of the Bible's value.

"By false methods of interpretation or the absence of all method," his book says, "the Bible has been made to teach almost every conceivable doctrine and to support many a terrible wickedness—slavery, polygamy and the subjugation of women—and the taproot of all these erroneous teachings and unbelly teachings has been the idea of the plenary inspiration and infallibility of the Scriptures."

"When this idea finally faded out of the popular mind, being replaced by the more valid conception, some of the perversions and absurdities of religious doctrine will pass away which have claimed, and still claim, their tens of thousands of adherents; some hoary superstitions and cruelties which have darkened our world will pass away."

Dr. Selleck declares the Bible should be considered merely as a piece of literature, as a "collection of ancient writings—put in a simple book, but a library of 56 different books."

Dr. Selleck states also that the Bible is full of inaccuracies, and that the story of the creation is unscientific. "The Bible has been made to teach almost every conceivable doctrine and to support many a terrible wickedness—slavery, polygamy and the subjugation of women—and the taproot of all these erroneous teachings and unbelly teachings has been the idea of the plenary inspiration and infallibility of the Scriptures."

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GEOLOGY

PUTS GENESIS AWAY

When Revealed Religion Runs Against Demonstrated Fact It is the Revelation That Gets the Worst of the Conflict.

WHAT A UNIVERSITY

LECTURE DID FOR ONE MAN.

BY WILLIAM COOPER.

In a recent issue of the Princeton Commitment on the geological argument and the strong influence it gives in favor of Prethought, though comparatively few Freshthinkers for low to study of this very interesting branch of natural science.

I think it was about the year 1871 that I first ran up against my first experience, by attending a lecture by a university professor, on the ice age, and as I was at that time a Sunday School teacher, my telling, and I imagine the chaos it caused with my religious views.

From that time on to the present, geology has been a subject of keen interest to me, and I made every new discovery, as being not only an addition to science, but a weakening of the mosaic account of the creation, on which the whole fabric of theology is built.

I think it by far the strongest point in the argument of the Freshthinkers, and its pity its rudiments and principles are not more widely known to Freshthinkers in general. The forces of nature are in the telling, and when once a willing student desires to study same, and books both for student are to be had for a mere trifle the learner, and the more experienced Appleton, publishers of New York City, have a first class work, as a first book, published at one dollar, and there are others in the market, but I like Appleton's best, as well this is, and is the recognized book for university use. We take the lesson of Mr. Urie, in regard to its age, as this is a clear case of certainty, and is such a direct set-off against the Biblical age of the world, viz., 6,000 years.

The eruptions of this volcano have been very regular, occurring about once in every twenty-five years, the general thickness of each eruption being about one foot. The total height being 11,000 feet, and all built up of eruption matter it is an easy matter to get at the age of the volcano. There is a large cone on one side where the layers are easily counted, and there are about 3,000 feet of lava layers laid bare, so we get our clear estimate of the age of the volcano, as there must have been a period of at least 30,000 years to build up what is in sight.

This is the estimate of Prof. J. Le Conte, the eminent geologist, who wrote the text book from which the figures are culled. These facts then clearly show that the Mosaic account of creation cannot hold its own, and is the same whichever way we turn. Another pitfall it is as well to mention in this connection, is that Bible students who is really a recent strata of the earth's crust, this territory is so close to the present, or prehistoric era that it is a mere nothing compared to the millions upon millions of years, that have passed since this earth of ours formed itself by nebulous vapors and gases, estimated by Lord Kelvin, a well known eminent scientist at 400 million years.

Hence then it is an argument, strata from the fountain head of science, and of such a substantial nature, that no theological scheming can overthrow, and an amounting shock to the subject, is the fact, that in the same university where these subjects are put before the students, the same old dogma on the Biblical account of creation were doted out, and the result is that there are many turned out of our leading universities, either well on the way to become Freshthinkers or actually so.

A Harvard man, who had had his four years there, quite recently told me that few men left there fully believing in Christianity.

Prof. T. H. Huxley, one of the foremost men of science in the memory of those living, says regarding the argument of science and theology "My belief is, and has been, that the Pentateuchal story of the creation is a myth, I suppose it to be a hypothesis respecting the origin of the universe which some ancient thinker found himself able to reconcile with his knowledge, or what he thought was knowledge, of the nature of things, and therefore assumed to be true. As such, I hold it to be not merely an interesting, but a venerable monument of a stage in the mental progress of mankind; and I find it difficult to suppose that any one who is acquainted with the cosmogonies of other nations—and especially with those of the Egyptians and Babylonians, with whom the Israelites were in such frequent and intimate communication—would consider it to possess either more or less scientific

importance than may be allotted to these."

Again, the whole scientific world has been stirred by the recent discoveries of very early types of remains of human species in Douglas county, Nebraska, and as their find is of a quite recent date, really within the last few months, there is little doubt but what we are on the threshold of more discoveries of perhaps still greater importance.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS SAY

A. A. Snow—Personal sickness has prevented supervision of the make-up, and the matter you speak of has been inadvertently omitted. Am now able to look after it.

W. C. Daly—it is impossible to send you the letter, or card, ordering the change of address for John Kaiser. It has been lost. You are probably correct about the matter being a Christian trick.

D. Webster Groh—We deeply regret not having some word from you for the Elsie memorial issue. Still we cannot help it and your advice is good. Your praise cheering.

J. J. Durham—Glad to know of your improvement and thank you for your kind interest.

Emmett Joyner—it is the same old trick and that game has been played for many years. It is high time to give it a rest.

O. W. Hannigan—Thanks for encouragement. Get married, my boy and wake up.

Louis A. Manz—Your sentiments are absolutely true and if every good woman the church would accept accordingly, my, how much faster we would travel!

C. Amory Stevens—Many thanks for the articles. We shall put them to good use when an opportunity occurs.

Mrs. Henry Kaiser—it is always gratifying to receive such a strong letter from a woman. But for the course the church would have perished long ago. Thanks.

Dr. L. S. Stoll—You are safe in throwing down the challenge, for there is not a priest or preacher in the land dare to take you up.

F. P. Ball, Sr.—Seldom do we receive such a letter as yours. It is by far the most encouraging that has reached this office since we have been at the helm. It does a man good to receive such good cheer. Thanks.

Sends Renewal.

Hovellville, Pa.—Please send enclosed money for subscription for Blue Grass Blade. Please put me down for one copy of Mr. Moore's book.—MILTON HOOVER.

Book.—MILTON HOOVER.

Just Late: That's All.

Birmingham, Ala.—What's the matter with the Blade? Our weekly dose of religion did not come to hand Sunday last. Write and let us wretched sinners know who is to blame, you or P. M. With many wishes for you and the Blade to bloom, I am yours as a fellow sinner.—LOUIS B. SHOEN. FIELD.

Wishes a Happy Year.

Rising Sun, Ind.—I send you \$2.00 for which you will continue to send the Blade for a year. I have neglected to send subscription when due, but hope it is not too late to do so. Wishing the Blade the greatest success and the editor a Happy New Year, in fact any and all good things which rightfully belong to an editor who edits a Freshthought paper and does not have the whole freethought patronage of the country. It seems that we all should do our little mite and keep the work going on.—J. P. HEMPHILL.

From a Valued Friend.

New York, I have your two hundred of Blades of December 23, 1906. As there are likely more than I shall have an occasion to use should you ever find yourself short or any one else seeking please advise me. I mail you under separate cover a few marked newspaper sheets of perhaps passing interest. The article by Bernard Shaw on the Personal God question and kindred religious thought impressed me as very practical and one of the strongest that I ever read. And yet how very many there are among the ignorant, thoughtless and prejudiced who know or think of Bernard Shaw except as a notoriously disreputable dramatist and the very last who would reach the high plane of thought that the article in question proves.—C. AMORY STEVENS.

FOOLS

GATHER AND WAIT

For the Coming of the Messiah and Receive Gift of New Tongues. Strange Antics of a New Religious Sect in Ohio.

FAKIRS AT WORK

CASTING OUT DEVILS.

(News Paper Clipping.)

The Post, of Cleveland, Ohio, publishes the following account of a new religious sect in that State:

At the three services held at the First Friends' Church, Sunday, the audience was crowded to the doors with member and others, who were anxious to hear those with the "gift of tongues."

After the morning service the members of the church held a meeting to determine whether or not to continue the revivals. Many members believe they are not accomplishing the purpose for which they were instituted. The pastor, Rev. J. Walter Malone, is enthusiastic over the results.

Regina Heiler. News of the casting of three demons from Mrs. Mary Stough has caused a sensation. Mrs. Stough, who had been in bed for months before the three demons were cast out of her, is now gaining strength, she declares.

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